

Presentation to the House Committee on County Affairs

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Ebola Response in Dallas

- Ebola is a potentially fatal disease, and is one of several viral hemorrhagic fevers.
- Symptoms include:
 - Sudden fever, sometimes with headache and joint and muscle aches
 - Nausea
 - Weakness
 - Diarrhea
 - Vomiting
 - Stomach pain
- There is no approved vaccine available for Ebola.

Ebola Response in Dallas

- Ebola is only infectious when a person is symptomatic.
 - Symptoms become apparent between two and 21 days after exposure.
- Transmission requires direct contact with blood or body fluids, or with a contaminated object like a needle.
 - Direct contact means exposure through broken skin or unprotected mucous membranes.
 - Body fluids include feces, saliva, urine, vomit, and semen.
- The spread of Ebola can be prevented through core public health prevention and infection control measures.

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West Africa Outbreak

- On August 8, 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
- West African countries with widespread transmission are: Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
- Countries with limited travel-related or localized transmission are: the United States, Nigeria, Senegal, and Spain.
- As of October 12, 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported a total case count of 8,997.
 - 4,493 total deaths

Ebola Response in Dallas

Index Patient: Traveler from Liberia

- On September 30, 2014, DSHS and CDC laboratory testing confirmed the first diagnosis of Ebola in the United States.
 - The case was travel-related, and was not transmitted within the country.
- The patient passed away on October 8, 2014.
- A contact investigation identified individuals who may have been exposed to the virus while the patient was infectious.
 - 48 individuals were identified with possible exposure; 10 were considered at high risk of exposure.
 - 43 people have completed 21 days of monitoring, and do not have Ebola.
 - They may resume regular activities, and represent no risk to the community.

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Second Patient: Health Care Worker

- On October 12, 2014, an additional case of Ebola was diagnosed.
 - This patient is a health care worker who provided care to the index case while he was in isolation.
 - Care is now being provided at National Institute of Health.
- The patient identified one contact who may have been exposed.
 - This individual is being actively monitored for symptoms.
 - No symptoms are present at this time.

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Third Patient: Health Care Worker

- An additional case was diagnosed in a health care worker on October 15, 2014.
 - This individual also provided care to the index case while he was in hospital isolation.
 - This person is being cared for at Emory Hospital.
- The patient has identified three contacts who are being actively monitored due to possible exposure to the Ebola virus.
 - No symptoms are present at this time.
- The CDC asked Texas to monitor approximately 200 individuals who were on flights with the third patient between Dallas-Fort Worth and Cleveland, Ohio.

Ebola Response in Dallas

Directions for Monitored Individuals and Schools

- Direction is being given to the following groups under monitoring:
 - Health care workers who provided care in the index patient's room
 - Lab personnel who handled Ebola specimens
 - Health care workers who provided care to their two ill colleagues
 - Flight passengers who sat within three feet of the third patient
- A statement has also gone out to schools about Ebola risk.
 - No patients with Ebola have been in schools.
 - Classes and extracurricular activities should not be canceled.
 - No need exists for special cleaning of schools or buses.